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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

20 June, 1995

Michael McAllister, President
Los Angeles By-Products Co.
1810 East 25th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90058

Dear Mr. McAllister:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a Basinwide Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in the San Fernando Valley to determine both the sources and extent of groundwater contamination, and to direct the groundwater remediation effort. Four individual National Priorities List Sites in the San Fernando Valley are being administered as one mega-site. The contamination consists mainly of chlorinated solvents (PCE and TCE) that pose a threat to public health. As part of this RI/FS, EPA administers a basinwide groundwater monitoring program. A copy of EPA's most recent fact sheet on the basinwide groundwater monitoring program is enclosed for your information.

EPA is requesting access to the **Penrose, Hewitt, Newberry, Tuxford and Strathern Landfills** for purposes of groundwater and soil vapor sampling. The data available on the groundwater below these landfills is sufficiently old that it is no longer considered reliable and so this data will soon be deleted from EPA's groundwater database. In order to avoid this data gap, EPA is proposing to conduct a sampling event for the monitoring wells installed at these former landfills. This sampling event would provide current groundwater quality and groundwater level data in areas near the upgradient edge of groundwater contamination in the North Hollywood area. EPA is aware that a number of the monitoring wells installed at these landfills during completion of the SWAT studies either may not exist in a condition allowing representative groundwater samples to be collected or may no longer exist at all. To conduct the groundwater sampling event in the most efficient manner, EPA intends to first assess the condition of all groundwater wells at these facilities and then return for the actual groundwater sampling at a later date. EPA would like to conduct the assessment phase of this project during July of 1995. EPA also proposes to sample soil gas at these landfill sites as part of the soil component of the Basinwide RI/FS. This would involve sampling the vapor collection systems, if possible. This sampling event may or may not occur concurrently with the groundwater sampling.

EPA is taking the above action because of its responsibility to respond to contaminated sites under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund) 42 U.S.C. Section 9601 to 9675. Under CERCLA §104(e), EPA has the authority to require access to property for necessary investigations; however EPA anticipates that it will have the cooperation of all parties and that use of formal §104(e) procedures will not be necessary to accomplish this sampling event.

EPA will take care to restore the properties to substantially the same condition that existed prior to the work. The actual assessment and groundwater sampling will be carried out by EPA's contractor, CH2M HILL, Inc. EPA welcomes the presence and participation of owner/operator personnel during all phases of activity.

Your cooperation is requested in giving EPA representatives access to the properties to complete this activity. In order to enable EPA to plan for this work, we would appreciate your signing this letter on the third page and returning one copy of all pages of this letter to EPA. A second signed copy executed by EPA is provided for your records. Assuming you agree to cooperate with EPA in this activity, please inform me who I should contact to schedule the well assessment and sampling activities. In addition, please call me at (415) 744-2253 if you have any questions or comments, or need additional information. Should you have questions on any legal issues pertaining to access, you may contact Marie Rongone of EPA's Office of Regional Counsel at (415) 744-1313.

Sincerely,



James N.P. Black, Ph.D.
San Fernando Superfund
Team

Enclosure

cc: Raoul Montes, Greenwald, Hoffman & Meyer
Marie Rongone, US EPA (without enclosure)
Dave Seter, US EPA (without enclosure)

JNB01863

PLEASE SIGN BELOW AND RETURN THIS ENTIRE LETTER IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

My signature below acknowledges that I have read this letter and agree that EPA, their representatives or contractors, may enter the properties of the Penrose, Hewitt, Newberry, Tuxford and Strathern Landfills to conduct the activities specified above.

Signature

Date

Los Angeles By-Products Co.
1810 East 25th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90058
Address

JNB01864